



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

4 NOVEMBER 2016

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### **(U) Arizona – Sixteen Arrested in Drug Ring Linked to Sinaloa Cartel**

(U) Tucson – Sixteen people from a Tucson organization tied to the Sinaloa drug cartel were arrested in a multi-agency investigation dealing with weapons, heroin and marijuana trafficking said Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials. Since August 2015, the organization moved more than \$1 million worth of heroin, marijuana and firearms from Arizona to several states on the East Coast, said a special agent in charge of the DEA in Arizona. More than 100 law enforcement personnel from a dozen federal, state and local agencies were involved in yesterday's operation that led to the arrests and seizure of 11 weapons, \$12,000 in cash and two pounds of heroin and two pounds of cocaine.

SOURCE: 3 November 2016, [Tucson.com News](#)

##### **(U) New York – US Intelligence Warning of Possible al Qa'ida Attacks in US**

(U) New York –US intelligence has alerted joint terrorism task forces that al Qa'ida could be planning attacks in three states on Monday. It is believed New York, Texas and Virginia are all possible targets, though no specific locations are mentioned. US authorities are taking the threat seriously, though the sources stress the intelligence is still being assessed and its credibility has not been confirmed.

Counterterrorism officials were alerted to the threat out of abundance of caution. Intelligence about potential threats always increases during holiday seasons and when big events are approaching. As Election Day nears, federal law enforcement is planning for several worst-case scenarios.

SOURCE: 4 November 2016, [CBS News](#)

##### **(U) New York – Man Charged in Email Attacks Against over 75 Schools**

(U) Manhattan – An Arizona man has been charged with trying to hack into email accounts at over 75 universities nationwide. Jonathan Powell, of Phoenix, was arrested on 2 November and held for arraignment in Phoenix federal court. New York prosecutors allege Powell successfully mined accounts for private information at a New York school from his work computer at a Phoenix business. US Attorney Preet Bharara says Powell targeted dozens of schools and successfully hacked into student email accounts at the New York school and another in Pennsylvania. He says Powell stole students' personal information and searched photos for potentially embarrassing content.

SOURCE: 3 November 2016, [ABC 6](#)

##### **(U) Virginia – American Who Defected from ISIL is Indicted**

(U) Fairfax – A Virginia man described as a defector from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been indicted on charges of helping an extremist organization and will be arraigned in federal court today, nearly eight months after he was captured by Kurds in Iraq. Mohamad Jamal Khweis, an American-born son of Palestinian immigrants, has been held without bail since he was brought back to the United States to face charges of conspiracy and providing material support to ISIL. Khweis, 27, told his family he was going to Europe for vacation last winter, then in March 2016, surfaced in Kurdish territory with a story of fleeing ISIL.

SOURCE: 3 November 2016, [NBC News](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Liberia – Hacker Attacks Cut Internet Access**

(U) Monrovia – A cyberattack in Liberia yesterday flooded cable link with data, making internet access intermittent. Researchers said the attacks showed hackers trying different ways to use massive networks of hijacked machines to overwhelm high-value targets. Experts said Liberia was attacked by the same group that caused web-wide disruption on 21 October. The attacks were the first to send overwhelming amounts of data from weakly protected devices, such as webcams and digital video recorders that had been enrolled into what is known as a botnet. A botnet variant called Mirai was identified by security firms as being the tool used to find and compromise the insecure devices. The source code for Mirai has been widely shared and many malicious hacker groups have used it to seek out vulnerable devices they can take over and use to mount what are known as Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks.

SOURCE: 4 November 2016, [BBC](#)

**(U) Morocco – Interior Ministry Arrests Five, Suspected of Setting up ISIL Training Camp**

(U) Rabat – Morocco's Interior Ministry says it has arrested five people suspected of ties with ISIL and of plans to carry out attacks. The five were arrested in the northern city of Tetouan and were in the process of preparing a military training camp in a local forest, according to a statement today from the ministry. Morocco has dismantled more than 30 suspected cells this past year, including one cell targeted recently comprised of 10 women, including minors.

SOURCE: 4 November 2016, [Washington Post](#)

**(U) Ukraine – Hackers Claim Huge Email Breach**

(U) Kiev – Two Ukrainians have given details of emails they helped to hack belonging to top Russian officials. Several emails they claim to have cracked are linked to Vladislav Surkov, one of the architects of Russia's current political system. He is also a key Kremlin figure in Moscow's intervention in Ukraine. The self-styled "hacktivists" claim they have no link to the Ukrainian state or security services but refuse to say how they hacked into Mr. Surkov's inboxes.

SOURCE: 3 November 2016, [BBC](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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